

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 11-15 are pending. Claims 1-6 and 11-15 are allowed. By this Amendment, Claims 7-10 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully submit no new material is presented herein.

Entry of Response Proper

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration on the part of the Examiner as the Amendment merely cancels, without prejudice or disclaimer, the non-allowed claims (i.e., Claims 7-10); (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to objections raised in the Final Rejection. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 11-15 Allowed

Applicants respectfully acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner indicating Claims 1-6 and 11-15 are allowed.

Withdrawal of Claim Rejections

Applicants respectfully appreciate and acknowledge the Examiner withdrawing the rejection of Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 5,862,570 to Lezuch et al. (Lezuch) in view of U.S. Patent Number 4,194,265 to Zimmermann as well as withdrawing the rejection of Claims 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Zimmermann.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lezuch in view of Zimmermann. Although Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection, as Claims 7-10 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

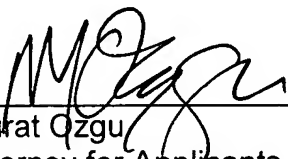
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the rejection, allowance of Claims 1-6 and 11-15, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 107348-00354.**

Respectfully submitted,
ARENT FOX LLP



Murat Ozgu
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,275

Customer No. 004372
ARENT FOX LLP
1050 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20036-5339
Telephone: (202) 857-6000
MO/elp